

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the prompt and thorough Office Action dated May 21, 2004. Applicant submits this response, including amendment and remarks.

Applicant has amended the independent claims 1 and 9, to include a limitation that the suit has a “bag configuration.” The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over a combination of the *Blackwell* patent in view of *Dobbs*. *Blackwell* discloses a protective uniform that includes a trunk portion 7 and leg and feet portions 8. The amended claim 1 contains the limitation “a substantially linear enclosed bottom end forming a bag configuration.” *Blackwell* does not have a substantially linear end because it includes the leg portions depending from the trunk portion. Accordingly, the *Blackwell* reference cannot serve as a basis for rejection of claim 1 as it does not include the above-referenced limitation.

With respect to claims 9 and 19, the Examiner rejected these claims under §102(b) as being anticipated by the *Ruelle* reference. Applicant acknowledges that *Ruelle* discloses a bag-like configuration; however, *Ruelle* does not disclose a means for adjusting a torso section of the suit.

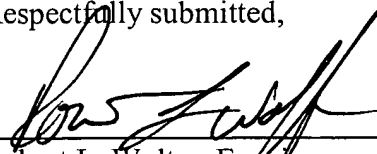
The Examiner cites *Dobbs* as teaching a means for adjusting the length of the sleeve. At most, the combination of *Ruelle* and *Dobbs* could lead one skilled in the art to provide a means for adjusting the sleeve of *Ruelle*; however, neither *Ruelle* nor *Dobbs* in any way suggest that the bottom end of the uniform or suit of *Ruelle* can be adjusted. Indeed, the bottom end of *Ruelle* has pockets and items that would prevent one from being able to adjust the length of the suit.

The Examiner’s rejection of claims 9 and 19 under §103(a) over *Blackwell* in view of *Lyman* is similarly traversed. As noted above, *Blackwell* does not disclose the claimed bag configuration.

Per the Examiner’s suggestion, claims 4 and 14 have been amended to include the limitations of independent claims 1 and 9, respectively, and any intervening dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 should be in a condition of allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending claims as amended. If further prosecution of this application can be facilitated by telephone, the Examining Attorney is invited to contact the undersigned at (407) 926-7706.

Respectfully submitted,

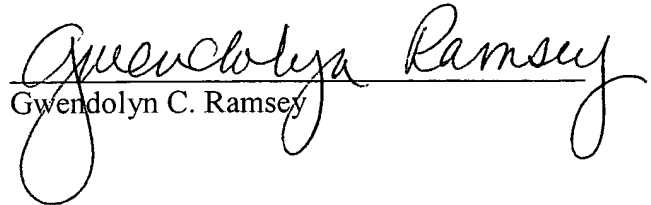
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Wolter', written over a horizontal line.

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I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above Amendment was furnished by first class U.S. Mail to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on this 5th day of August, 2004.


Gwendolyn C. Ramsey